SKETCHES of BRISTOL in THE OLDEN TIME.

Drawn and Lithographed by

ROSE. R. POCOCK.

A. POCOCK. LITH. BRISTOL

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To His Grace

The Duke of Beaufort,

Lord High Steward

of the

City of Bristol, &c, &c, &c,

This Work

is with permission

most Respectfully Dedicated

By His Grace's

most humble,

most obedient Servant,

Rose, Rachael, Pocock.

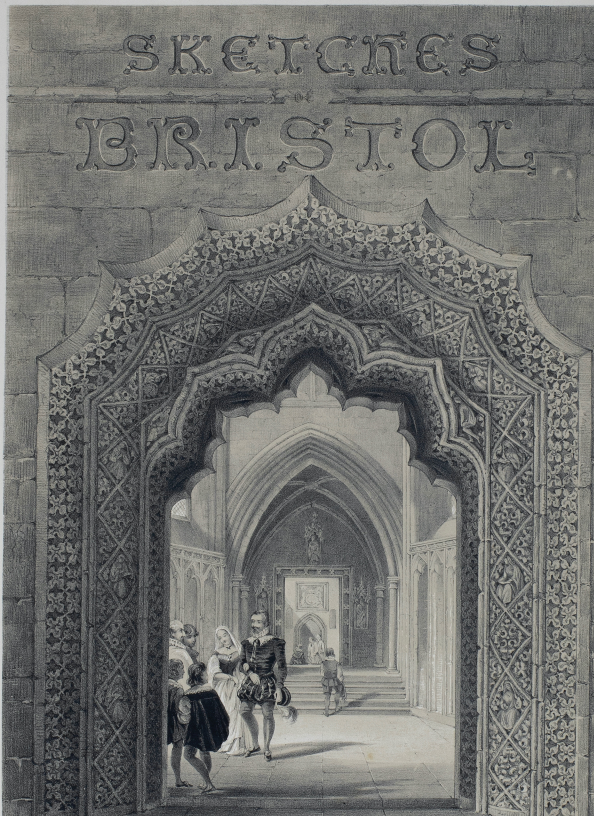
PREFACE.

WHEN Pericles would dignify the taste of his refined countrymen, he scrupled not to associate the aids of a classical mythology with the graces of architectural design.

This sagacity of the great statesman, rendered enduring by the forecast of a vigorous intellect, subserved not only to the civilization of his countrymen, but to the re-production of that ardent love of true science, which has since graced the stream of Time. The creations of genius under such a patronage were national—ofttimes religious. We, too, with no unseemly pride, may reflect, that the piety of our Statesmen and Warriors, exalted by a purer faith than that of the illustrious heathen, has reared capacious temples, not "to the unknown God," but to the Majesty of Heaven. To one of such magnificent Edifices the vestibule is here given; while other portions of the sacred pile will be seen in the subsequent pages. The domestic architecture of our country, as still embodied in the fading antiquities of the city, will be found faithfully preserved in the following work. Would that the casket were more suitable to the precious relics it contains.

ERRATA.

In the description of the Interior of Nicholas Street, Line 15, for "Proteget et flores Elizabethi tuas," read "Protegat et flores Elizabetha tuos."
Line 17, for "Non est mortali quod opto," read "Non est mortale quod opto."
Line 18, for "Est mitic grata salens, Est mitic Dula Mon," read "Est Mihi Grata salus, Est Mihi dulce mori."



by Mrs Rose R. Pocock.

North Porch . Redcliff Church.

ENTRANCE TO THE NORTH PORCH

OF

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH.

This singularly rich and elaborate doorway forms the Entrance to the North Porch of St. Mary Redcliffe Church, one of the finest ecclesiastical edifices in the West of England.

Its history is interwoven with the tale of Chivalry and Romance; of Tilts and Tourneys; of Soldier, Monk, and hooded Friars; of Minstrel Bards who live again while we gaze on those venerable walls which association links with glorious days gone by. The beautiful architecture of this noble pile—its extent and history combine to render it to the casual observer an object of deep attraction—to the inhabitant of Bristol a source of pride. And now fraught with the rich associations of time, with grateful voice the future shall hail the piety of the present, which, connecting with devotion the grace of re-creative genius, shall raise up the foundations of many generations, shall be "the repairer of the breach," "the restorer of paths to dwell in." Animated by these considerations, shall not grateful pride claim the privilege of uniting with the venerated forefathers of this passing race, both name and deed! thus bestowing on their memory an enduring shrine, on themselves community of spirit, and on posterity an "everlasting possession." No longer then, as heretofore, shall the passing chime breathe the requiem of mouldering marble, but the hallowed pile shall revive in all its pristine grandeur, and the hand of piety inscribe the names of those who nobly came forward to the sacred work of restoration, while in ages yet to come, some bard, more favored than the hapless Chatterton, shall sing their pious praises. These considerations lead us to

THE NORTH PORCH,

which is generally acknowledged to have been added to the church by William Canyings the elder, in the reign of Edward 3d. Barrett, in his history of Bristol, speaks of him as a rich and pious merchant of our city, who is on record as a member of Parliament for Bristol, in the several years, 1364, 1383, 1384.

Conjecture has been wasted, research has proved vain, to discover why this porch should have been added, or for what purpose it was intended, as there was one already on the same side to which this is attached; but by the lover of the picturesque in architecture, conjecture may be dispensed with, wonder is absorbed in admiration, and thus do we cease to think why such things were, in the gratification that such things are. According to the celebrated Britton, in his description of this venerable pile, the grand doorway of the North Porch is a curiosity in architecture, being unlike any other in this country; it has some analogy in form and ornament to one in the monastery in Batalhi in Portugal, which was designed by David Hackett, a native of Ireland, about the year 1400. (Here again is room for conjecture; did the same architect design the two porches, or is one a copy of the other?) The plan of the porch is an irregular hexagon, with bold triangular buttresses at the extreme ends; a stone seat runs round the interior base; a large and singular doorway faces the North, a smaller one opens towards the East, a closet is in the Western wall, and blank arches, with purfled pediments, are placed in the lower story; an ornamental cornice having sculptured busts and flowers, continues round five sides of the room, and over the cornice is a series of five windows, each divided into three days or lights, with the lower portions walled up; at the sill of these windows is a passage extending from the staircase at the south-east angle, to the pier at the corresponding angle. The vaulted roof of this porch is adorned with several ribs ramifying from the centre in 32 radii to the circumference; at 13 different points of intersection are as many sculptured bosses or orbs. The doorway and lower part of the interior, with that of the middle porch, and opposite door of the Church are given in the drawing. Over this doorway is the far-famed apartment, known as the muniment room, which retains the chests said by Chatterton to have been the repository of the papers known by the name of the Rowley MSS.

Sketched & Drawn on Stone by R. Pocock.

PROCESSION IN BROAD ST. WITH THE MAYOR RIDING BY THE SIDE OF THE QUEEN

R. Pocock lithog.

ST. JOHN'S GATEWAY AND CHURCH.

THE FIRST PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION WITH VERY FEW ALTERATIONS IS TAKEN FROM AN ELEGANT LITTLE WORK ENTITLED THE "CHURCHES OF BRISTOL."

Associated with the history of Bristol—with its assaults, its sieges, and all the horrors of its civil warfare, the archway under the Tower of this Church excites particular interest, from its having been the North gateway or entrance to the old City, and forming part of the regular fortifications. The channel in which the portcullis used to traverse, still remains for imagination to build its history upon, and conjure up the startling incidents connected with those times when it had its occupation and its use. The archway, which is pointed with clear, well defined mouldings, has a groined ceiling, the ribs of which terminate in a circular opening. Two mutilated statues, supposed to represent Brennus and Belinus, the reputed founders of Bristol, are placed in niches in the inner side of the gateway; the stiffness of their attitudes, and the rude style of sculpture, indicate their execution at a very primitive age, and the absence of all satisfactory information respecting them, favors the supposition that they belonged to a more ancient gateway attached to the original church existing on this spot. That one was founded here at a very early period, is ascertained from the fact of its being among the Churches that were the fee of William, Earl of Gloucester, and by him given to the Priory of Saint James, and the Monastery of Tewkesbury, as we learn from Henry the 2nd's deed of confirmation, dated in 1181. The present fabric was erected by Walter le Frampton, Mayor of this city in 1357, who filled the same office in 1365, and 1374; and whom William Wyrcestre styles "Mercator Nobilis." Wyrcestre also describes the building as "A Church with a faire gate under a Tower, with a high spire of Freestone, and six bays or arches, with six windows on the North side, and two only on the South"; but this latter does not correspond with the number and disposition of the windows in the church, but rather to those of the crypt to which he probably referred. The interior of the Church, which consists of but one aisle, presents a very early specimen of the perpendicular style. The chancel is separated from the choir by a high narrow Lancet arch, not usually found in buildings of this date. The room at the East end, now separated from the Chancel, was formerly the High Altar, and received the name of vestry-room, when applied to the use of that body in 1572. There are many interesting monuments in this church, recording the virtues and heroic deeds of those who have long slept the sleep of death. Amongst others may be noticed one to the memory of Rowley, whose name has given a sanction to the compositions of Chatterton. In 1642 a design was entertained by Robert Yeomans and George Bouchier, to deliver up the city, then held by the Parliament, to the king's forces; chains and locks were provided to secure St. John's Gate, and the door of the crypt or croud was forced open that it might serve as a prison during the assault. The bells of the church were also to be rung, as a signal to Prince Rupert, that Froome Gate was in possession of the Loyal Party.

We will now turn from the stern realities of warfare to scenes of joy and festivity; we allude to the progress of Queen Elizabeth, who, when graciously visiting our city, stopped at this gate to hear an address delivered by an allegorical personage, styled Gratulation, while on her way to Sir John Young's,* whose mansion then faced the Quay, where she was nobly entertained for the space of a week.

* At present the Building occupied as Colston's School.

Sketched & Drawn on Stone by R. Pocock

A. Pocock, Lith. Bristol.

Mantelpiece in a House in Nicholas S^t. formerly the Residence of Alderman Whitson

Published by G. Davey Broad S^t.

INTERIOR OF NICHOLAS-STREET.

This interior is a representation of one now extant in Nicholas Street, and is a faithful picture of the style of the houses of our old merchants, in the reign of Elizabeth; the open fire-place and blazing logs give an air of comfort to a room, unequalled by the more modern grate, and only to be appreciated by those who have felt the genial glow derived from a wood fire and a seat in the chimney-corner. The benevolent owner of this mansion was John Whitson, who came to Bristol about the middle of the reign of Elizabeth, a poor boy, with only a few pence in his pocket, and was taken into the employ of a wine cooper, in Nicholas Street, where, by his good conduct, diligence, and honesty, he gained the esteem of his master, and was appointed by him, to be first clerk in his Counting House. His master dying, he continued to conduct the business for his widow, who in due time, rewarded him with her hand. He now became an eminent merchant, and was chosen a member of the corporate body. He served the office of Mayor in 1603, and in 1615, in this house. He was chosen to represent the city in Parliament, the 2nd, 12th, and 18th, of James the 1st; and the 1st of Charles the 1st. His disposition was exemplary and pious, displaying itself even in the decorations of his house, which, until very lately, contained many scriptural inscriptions in the rooms, on the pictures, &c. Over the arms of Elizabeth, in the chimney-piece, here given, were two latin verses: "Qui Leo De juda est, et flos de Jesse, Leones Proteget et flores, Elizabethi tuas."

On the left side of this is, "Non est mortali quod opto."

On the right side, "Est mitic grata salens, Est mitic Dula Mon."

On his picture, still remaining, is the following verse from the Psalms, "Nunquam desperato de miseracordia tua, domini."

It was during the time he first filled the office of Mayor the plague raged in Bristol, carrying off 2,600 persons between the 28th of July, 1603, and the 20th of February, 1604.

This good man, with a moral courage, inspired by feelings of piety and compassion, stood by his post in this time of danger, and gave every assistance to his distressed fellow-citizens. He alludes to his preservation in a pious tract, written by himself, at the close of his active life, entitled, "The Aged Christian's Farewell to the World," when he says, "My health he has been graciously pleased to continue in the midst of contagious sickness; I have seen a thousand fall beside me, and well nigh ten thousand at my right hand, and yet, by his goodness only, the arrow did not come nigh me."

In him the poor scholar found a friend, talent shrouded by poverty was never overlooked, the helpless infant and the aged patriarch, alike shared his bounty; his charity was universal during his life, and at his death, he bequeathed large estates to endow the Red Maid's School, and Alms' Houses, to benefit poor scholars at Oxford, as also, sums to be given to poor housekeepers and widows, yearly, with many other charities, among which may be mentioned a large sum of money to be lent to poor tradesmen, free of interest. He is buried in Saint Nicholas Church, where a handsome monument marks the spot.

Sketched & Drawn on Stone by R. Pocock.

A. Pocock Lithog. Bristol

Procession of Queen Elizabeth at the High Cross

Published by G. Davey Broad St.

THE HIGH CROSS.

THIS graceful structure formerly stood in the centre of the quadrangle, at the top of High Street. It was first erected in the year 1373, and was in every respect a civic memorial, based on the acquisition of many privileges and Charters granted by royalty, and raised as a pledge of gratitude to the throne.

On its first erection it was ornamented with the three Royal Statues of John, Henry 3rd, and Edward 3rd. We would here observe that the 3rd Henry established Bristol a Mayoralty, and united Redcliffe to Bristol, (before this date a distinct district,) thus making one corporate Town. Our ancient city first became an independent county under the supervision of that Justinian of English monarchs, Edward 3rd, in the year 1373; the date also of the erecting the Cross in High Street. The additional Statue of Edward the 4th was subsequently added. In 1633, the Cross partially taken down was enlarged, and a structure of more imposing character superadded, still, however, preserving identity in architectural ornament and design. It was at this epoch that additional Royal Statues were erected;—the figure of Henry 6th; the Regal Elizabeth; King Charles 1st, whom we find making over to the city by sale, the Castle and its dependencies; and King James 1st. This graceful monument of antiquity was then enclosed with iron Palisades, and surrounded with a handsome range of freestone steps; here all proclamations were read, and here all public offenders were punished. Nor must we forget that the High Cross of Bristol witnessed the splendid Cavalcade of the maiden Queen, here pausing to receive the loyal homage of heart and lip, of her joyful subjects; an illustration of which stirring event is here given. As the population and commercial enterprise of the city increased, it was found, that though a valuable monument of antiquity, the High Cross proved in many instances, a considerable obstruction. It was, however, after being removed, still standing in College Green so lately as the year 1763, when it was presented to the father of the present Sir Richard Hoare, Bart., who has placed it in his beautiful grounds at Stourton. It may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to our readers, to hear the quaint though expressive language of our ancient Chronicle, on the subject of the Royal Visit. We shall, therefore, without any further apology, quote the local historian.

"In 1574 our gracious Queen Elizabeth, in her progress came to this city. She first alighted at St. Lawrence's Hospital, where she changed some apparel; after which, the Mayor, (Mr. Thomas Kelke,) and all the Common Council, riding in scarlet upon good steeds, with their foot-cloths and pages by their sides, with the companies and many citizens, went to meet her Majesty, and received her within Lawford's Gate, when Mr. Mayor delivered the gilt mace unto her grace, and she then presently delivered it unto him again. And so Mr. Mayor, kneeling before her grace, whilst Mr. John Popham, Esq., recorder of this city, made an oration to the Queen, did after it was ended, stand up, and delivered a fair needlework purse wrought in silk and gold, unto her highness, with £100 in gold therein. Then the Mayor and his brethren took their horses, Mr. Mayor himself rode nigh before the Queen, bareheaded, carrying the sword, between two sergeants at arms; and the rest of the Council rode next before the nobility and trumpeters; and so they passed through the city; and at the High Cross some pleasant sights were shewed. They then brought her highness unto Mr. John Young, on St. Augustine's Back, where she lay seven days, until the Saturday next, following. Next day being Sunday, she went to the college to hear a sermon, where was a speech to be said and a hymn to be sung.

The speech was left out by an occasion unlooked for, but the hymn was sung by a very fine boy. During her abode here divers pageants and feats of war by land and by water, were shewed before her. Among other things devised for her pleasure, was made a great Fort in Trenemill-meades, over against Gibtailer, which was assaulted by land and water three days; and also another lesser fort, called the base fort, standing upon a hill beyond it, which was won the first night the assault was given. Now served the tide, and up the water from Kingroad came three brave gallies, chasing a ship that came with victuals for the fort. The Queen was present during the said three days, for whose standing there was built a large scaffold of timber, in the Marsh, where she had the full sight of every action that was performed by the best experienced men in martial practice about this city, with very great charges, especially of gunpowder, whereof was no spare made to give content. All which pleased our Queen and Nobility very well, who commended it, and gave the Mayor and his brethren thanks for such entertainment."